

## **IC 33-23-6**

### **Chapter 6. Circuit Court and Superior Court Domestic Relations Alternative Dispute Resolution**

#### **IC 33-23-6-1**

##### **Alternative dispute resolution fee**

Sec. 1. (a) In addition to the fees required under IC 33-37-4-4, if a county meets the requirements of this chapter, the clerk of the court shall collect from the party filing a petition for legal separation, paternity, or dissolution of marriage under IC 31 an alternative dispute resolution fee of twenty dollars (\$20).

(b) Not later than thirty (30) days after the clerk collects a fee under subsection (a), the clerk shall forward to the county auditor the alternative dispute resolution fee. The county auditor shall deposit the fee forwarded by the clerk under this section into the alternative dispute resolution fund.

*As added by P.L.98-2004, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 33-23-6-2**

##### **Alternative dispute resolution fund; copayment for services; prohibition on mediation**

Sec. 2. (a) There is established an alternative dispute resolution fund for the circuit court and an alternative dispute resolution fund for the superior court. The exclusive source of money for each fund is the alternative dispute resolution fee collected under section 1 of this chapter for the circuit or superior court, respectively.

(b) The funds shall be used to foster domestic relations alternative dispute resolution, including:

- (1) mediation;
- (2) reconciliation;
- (3) nonbinding arbitration; and
- (4) parental counseling.

Litigants referred by the court to services covered by the fund shall make a copayment for the services in an amount determined by the court based on the litigants' ability to pay. The fund shall be administered by the circuit or superior court that exercises jurisdiction over domestic relations and paternity cases in the county. Money in each fund at the end of a fiscal year does not revert to the county general fund but remains in the fund for the uses specified in this section.

(c) The circuit or superior court that administers the alternative dispute resolution fund shall ensure that money in the fund is disbursed in a manner that primarily benefits those litigants who have the least ability to pay, in accordance with the plan adopted by the county under section 3 of this chapter.

(d) A court may not order parties into mediation or refer parties to mediation if a party is currently charged with or has been convicted of a crime:

- (1) under IC 35-42; or
- (2) in another jurisdiction that is substantially similar to the

elements of a crime described in IC 35-42.  
*As added by P.L.98-2004, SEC.2.*

### **IC 33-23-6-3**

#### **Plan; judicial approval**

Sec. 3. (a) A county desiring to participate in the program under this chapter must:

(1) develop a plan to carry out the purposes of section 2 of this chapter that is approved by a majority of the judges in the county exercising jurisdiction over domestic relations and paternity cases; and

(2) submit the plan to the judicial conference of Indiana.

(b) The plan under subsection (a) must include:

(1) information concerning how the county proposes to carry out the purposes of the domestic relations alternative dispute resolution fund as set out in section 2 of this chapter; and

(2) a method of ensuring that the money in the alternative dispute resolution fund is disbursed in a manner that primarily benefits those litigants who have the least ability to pay.

The plan may include the use of senior judges as mediators in domestic relations cases as assigned by the supreme court. The judicial conference of Indiana may request additional information from the county as necessary.

*As added by P.L.98-2004, SEC.2.*

### **IC 33-23-6-4**

#### **Annual report**

Sec. 4. A county that participates in the program under this chapter shall submit a report to the judicial conference of Indiana not later than December 31 of each year summarizing the results of the program.

*As added by P.L.98-2004, SEC.2.*